

Neopit/Zoar Community Meeting
June 25, 2002 @ 5:00 p.m.
Neopit Community Center

1. Legislators present: Eugene Caldwell, Gary Besaw and Joan Delabreau. Also present: Donna Powless, Menominee Tribal School Administrator, Doug Cox, Environmental Services, Cameron Smith. Community member: Roger McPherson.

Note: meeting was not recorded, notes taken by Vice-Chairman Caldwell.

Mr. McPherson raised the issue of the importance of penmanship being taught in the school. He has three children attending MTS. He thought that penmanship should be worked on at least ½ hour per day. The discussion centered on computer key boarding and journal writing in planners.

Various curriculum programs were discussed and what studies showed to be innovative curriculum versus ineffective curricular programs. Coordination between MTS and MISD so that student movement becomes an easier transition with similar curriculum. Gary also informed everyone that MTS Education committee has initiated a curriculum committee. Presently, the focus is on developing learning skills geared more toward problem solving rather than having teachers "leading" students to answers.

The Neopit dam issue:

Right now the Tribe is on the BIA list for dam reconstruction which is probably 4-5 years out. Doug Cox talked about the sampling of the riverbed saying that all the data is not complete yet, but what information they do have on what chemicals they did find was somewhat surprising. They expected to find such chemicals as PCB and mercury but only found trace amounts. When data is complete they may find some funding through EPA to do some cleanup.

Discussion then focused on dredging of various ways and what would be less disturbing to sediment. Discussion focused on the public hearing last year on the comments of whether to remove the dam and let the river flow back to its natural state versus repair or reconstruction. Mercury by the dam site and where the buildings use to be will be investigated for contamination. Bernie Vigue thinks there were old mercury switches that were thrown out in that area.

Meeting adjourned at 7:00 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted by
Legislative Staff Services